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Treatment of Shrimp Effluent by Integrated Culture of Bivalves and Macroalgae

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Abstract [Objectives] To provide a theoretical basis for constructing the best species suitable for local shrimp-bivalves-algae IMTA through the screening of different bivalves and the determination of seaweed density. [Methods] The preliminary studies of different kind of bivalves and macroalgae (*Gracilaria licheoides*) used for the purification of shrimp effluent were described. Through the screening of benthic bivalves, the best ratio of integrated culture of bivalves and algae was determined. [Results] Both bivalves and macroalgae had certain purification effects on aquaculture wastewater, but the effects significantly differed from species and breeding density. The removal rate of nutrient declined from *Potamocorbula laevis*, *Sinonovacula constricta*, *Tegillarca granosa*. The mixotrophic culture of 8 ind/L *P. laevis* and 120 g *G. licheoides* had the highest efficiency of purification and removal rates of nutrient; NH₄-N: 90.67%, TP: 86.18%, TN: 72.66%, NO₃-N: 51.85%, respectively. There was a significant difference between the blank control group and the other three groups ($P < 0.01$). The 8 ind/L + 120 g group was significantly higher than the 4 ind/L + 120 g group ($P < 0.05$) in TP removal rate. Additionally, the difference between four groups was significant in the removal rate of NH₄-N and TN ($P < 0.05$), but 2 ind/L + 120 g group and 8 ind/L + 120 g group in the removal rate of NO₃-N had no significant difference ($P > 0.05$). [Conclusions] This research provides a reference for the use of filterable shellfish and large seaweed to treat aquaculture wastewater, and also provides the theoretical basis for constructing the local multi-level breeding structure.

Key words Filter-feeding bivalves, IMTA, *Gracilaria licheoides*, Aquaculture wastewater, Purification effect, Removal rate

1 Introduction

Aquaculture is playing a more and more important role in China's agricultural economy. With the continuous increase of industrialization and high-density aquaculture, the eutrophication of aquaculture wastewater is also increasing. In recent years, with the proposal and implementation of some water pollution control policies in Zhejiang Province including "five-water co-governance", and elimination of inferior V-type water, mariculture is also facing an important transformation, from extensive high-density aquaculture to eco-friendly aquaculture. At present, aquaculture industries involving soft-shelled turtle and bullfrog, which carry out extensive management, have been banned. With the promotion of environmental protection policy, high-density shrimp culture is bound to face industrial upgrading and wastewater treatment. Therefore, it is necessary to find a way for the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry in line with the local reality.

Integrated multi-tropic aquaculture (IMTA) is a multi-nutrient-level integrated culture system formed by many species. It ap-

propriately blends fish, shrimp, plankton, benthos and algae for culture to facilitate the conversion of wastes discharged by high-nutrient-level cultured organisms into products of low-nutrient-level cultured organisms with economic value. Through the comparative study between the experiment in the laboratory or outdoor pond and the monoculture control group, it is found that the integrated culture at multi-nutrient levels can not only greatly reduce the discharge of wastewater, increase the biological species in the culture water, and maintain the ecological balance of the culture system, but also promote the growth of culture varieties and the energy flow and material circulation in the culture water environment. There are dual or multiple integrated culture models including fish-shrimp-bivalves, shrimp-crab-algae, shrimp-bivalves. The research on the integrated culture model at multi-nutrient levels, such as shrimp-bivalves-algae, has become a hot spot at present. However, the physiological structure and external growth environment of different bivalves are different, so the long-term adaptation to the environment leads to different feeding behavior, as a result, there are great differences in the filtering effects of nutrients and suspended solids in wastewater among different species of bivalves^[1]. Macroalgae are the primary producers in the marine ecosystem, which use carbon dioxide, nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients for photosynthesis. Large-scale culture of offshore macroalgae can consume a large amount of C, N, P and other elements in the living sea area, changing the material cycle in the sea area, and improving eutrophication of water body, etc.^[2]. However, different algae have different growth habits, contact area with water and metabolic mechanism of organic matter absorption, so the selection of species combination suitable for IMTA is the

Received: March 15, 2021 Accepted: May 6, 2021

Supported by Ningbo Science and Technology Project of Enriching the People in 2015 (2015C10008); Ningbo Science and Technology Plan Project (2019C10039); Zhejiang Science and Technology Plan Project (2019C02054); Special Project for the Construction of Modern Agricultural Industrial Technology System (CARS-49).

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key to determine the efficiency of IMTA system.

Litopenaeus vannamei is currently one of the three largest aquaculture varieties in the world. *Potamocorbula laevis*, *Tegillarca granosa* and *Sinonovacula constricta* are the most common benthic bivalves in Zhejiang Province. *Gracilaria lichevoides* is also one of the most popular algae species. Through the screening of different bivalves and the determination of algae density, the purpose of this experiment was to provide a theoretical basis for constructing the best species suitable for local shrimp-bivalves-algae IMTA.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Experimental materials The experiment was carried out in the shrimp culture workshop of the marine and fishery science base in Ningbo with a period of 5 d. The experimental material *G. lichevoides* was collected in the sea area around Ningbo. *P. laevis* is a wild population collected in Leqing Bay, Wenzhou City. *S. constricta* and *T. granosa* were purchased from the artificial culture area of Xianxiang Town, Ningbo City, and brought back to the laboratory to select healthy and energetic individuals to be domesticated indoors using wastewater. The experiment was carried out in 100 L white polyethylene plastic bucket, using shrimp aquaculture wastewater in greenhouse.

2.2 Determination of suitable culture density of algae In the static experiment, *G. lichevoides* was cultured in 4 density groups with 3 replicates in each group, and the culture density was 0.5, 2.0 and 4.0 g/L, respectively. In addition, a blank control group was set. Before the experiment, the dirt on the algae surface was cleaned, and then the moisture on the algae surface was sucked dry with absorbent paper and weighed. DO: 6.83–7.37 mg/L, salinity: 25, water temperature: 25.0–25.3 °C. TN: 4.01–4.45 mg/L, TP: 0.56–0.65 mg/L, NH₄-N: 1.56–2.19 mg/L and NO₃-N: 0.35–0.76 mg/L, continuous aeration was adopted, and water was not changed during the experiment. Natural light was used as light, and samples were taken from 8:30 to 9:00 every day.

2.3 Screening of bivalves and determination of culture density Three kinds of common bivalves were used in the experiment: *P. laevis*, *S. constricta* and *T. granosa*. Indoor domestication was carried out before the experiment, *P. laevis* was a wild population, and a large number of deaths occurred at the initial stage of artificial culture, so after domestication for one month, the experiment was carried out after it was domesticated with different proportions of seawater and wastewater for 7 d with *T. granosa* and *S. constricta* indoors. The experiment was carried out in a 100 L white polyethylene plastic bucket. According to the living habits of three species of bivalves in nature, (7 ± 2) cm thick sediment was put into the culture bucket of *T. granosa* and *S. constricta* respectively, and (7 ± 2) cm thick sediment (fine sand:sediment = 2:1) was put into the culture bucket of *P. laevis*. The sediment was pretreated by exposure to eliminate unfavorable microorganisms. 50 L greenhouse shrimp aquaculture wastewater was injected into three kinds of bivalves culture buckets.

Three species of bivalves were divided into 4 culture density groups with 3 biological replicates in each group (Table 1). Through literature review and pre-experiments, the bivalves culture gradient was set. Because of its different size, the culture density was also different. According to the best culture density, the bivalves with the best nutrient salt removal rate were selected. The culture density of *P. laevis* was set to 100, 200 and 400 ind; the culture density of *T. granosa* was set to 20, 30 and 50 ind; the culture density of *S. constricta* was 13, 20 and 32 ind. In addition, a blank control group (BCG) was set. Before the experiment, the stains on the shell were cleaned up, and the shell width, shell length and shell height were measured. During the experiment, continuous aeration was carried out without changing water, and the natural light was used. The experimental period was 5 d, and samples were taken at 8:30 every morning. After the experiment, the dry weight was measured.

Table 1 Shell length, height and weight of the bivalves used in experiment

Species	Shell length//cm	Shell width//cm	Shell height//cm	Soft dry weight//g
<i>S. constricta</i>	5.68 ± 0.24	1.97 ± 0.12	1.38 ± 0.11	14.95 ± 0.21
	5.74 ± 0.19	1.86 ± 0.06	1.39 ± 0.10	23.40 ± 0.15
	5.79 ± 0.21	1.75 ± 0.14	1.41 ± 0.17	37.44 ± 0.08
<i>T. granosa</i>	2.69 ± 0.09	2.18 ± 0.20	1.95 ± 0.08	8.32 ± 0.19
	2.66 ± 0.12	1.95 ± 0.16	1.91 ± 0.14	12.51 ± 0.22
	2.80 ± 0.18	2.23 ± 0.21	1.89 ± 0.13	24.50 ± 0.17
<i>P. laevis</i>	1.17 ± 0.04	0.74 ± 0.02	0.43 ± 0.01	1.90 ± 0.12
	1.20 ± 0.08	0.76 ± 0.04	0.44 ± 0.06	4.00 ± 0.09
	1.19 ± 0.06	0.80 ± 0.05	0.48 ± 0.03	8.8 ± 0.10

2.4 Integrated culture of bivalves and algae The algae *G. lichevoides* and bivalves *P. laevis*, which had the strongest purification ability, were selected for integrated culture for one week, and the other materials were the same as above. 60 L of wastewater from shrimp culture was put into each barrel. *G. lichevoides* and *P. laevis* were mixed with different density. 3 culture density groups and one blank control group were set, and each group had 3 replicates. In each density group, 120 g of *G. lichevoides* was mixed with 2, 4 and 8 ind/L *P. laevis*. The surface of the two was cleaned before the experiment, and their wet weight was measured. The average wet weight of *P. laevis* was (0.24 ± 0.03) g.

2.5 Water quality monitoring Nitrate (NO₃-N), ammonia nitrogen (NH₄-N), total nitrogen (TN), total phosphorus (TP) and other indicators were selected for water quality detection. Water sample collection method: one water sample was collected at each sampling point (50 mL), the sampling bottle was immersed under the water, the bottle was washed once, the water body was stirred, the foam on water surface was removed, and the middle part of the water sample was quickly taken, then the sampling bottle was put into a dark plastic bag and brought to the laboratory.

The water quality monitoring method is based on the marine monitoring code^[3]. NH₄-N: the standard method of DIN and ISO; TN: hydrazine sulfate reduction method; NO₃-N: zinc-cadmium reduction method; TP: TNTP was combined with Mo-Sb Antispectrophotometry^[4], dissolved oxygen meter (YSI) was used to

determine salinity, dissolved oxygen and temperature in water during the experiment.

The formula for calculating the removal rate (η) of each substance is as follows:

$$\eta = (C_o - C_c) / C_o \times 100$$

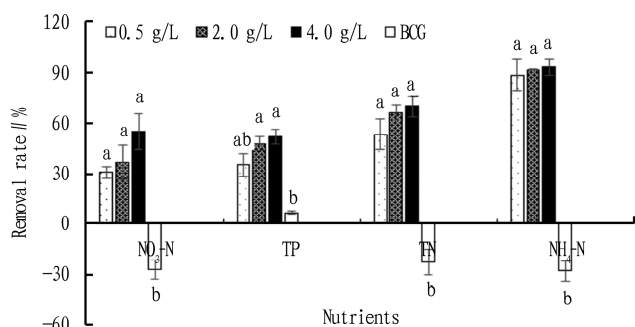
where C_o is the average concentration of inflow water quality index, and C_c is the average nutrient salt concentration of the experimental group^[5].

2.6 Data analysis methods The experimental results are expressed by mean \pm standard deviation, and Excel 2007 was used to make charts. The effects of *G. lichevooides* with different density, three kinds of bivalves and integrated culture of bivalves and algae on the removal of a certain nutrient salt were compared, SPSS 19.0 was used for one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA), and LSD was used for statistical test ($P < 0.05$). $P < 0.01$ means the difference is extremely significant, $P < 0.05$ means the difference is significant, $P > 0.05$ means the difference is not significant.

3 Results and analysis

3.1 Results of determining the density of *G. lichevooides*

3.1.1 Removal effect of *G. lichevooides* with different density on $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$. The removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ in *G. lichevooides* with the culture density of 0.5, 2, 4 g/L and blank control group was $30.93\% \pm 3.57\%$, $36.89\% \pm 10.1\%$, $55.24\% \pm 10.7\%$ and $-27.13\% \pm 5.59\%$, respectively. It can be seen from Fig. 1 that the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ in the *G. lichevooides* group was high, and there was a significant difference in the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ between the different culture density and the blank control group by ANOVA analysis ($P < 0.05$). When the culture density was 4 g/L, the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ was the highest in *G. lichevooides*, followed by 2 g/L, which was significantly higher than that of the blank control group ($P < 0.01$).



Note: If marked with the same letter, there is no significant difference ($P > 0.05$); different letters indicate significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 1 Nutrient salt removal rate of *Gracilaria lichevooides* with different density

3.1.2 Removal effect of *G. lichevooides* with different density on TP. The removal rate of TP in *G. lichevooides* with the culture density of 0.5, 2.0, 4.0 g/L and blank control group was $35.38\% \pm 6.67\%$, $47.94\% \pm 3.89\%$, $51.91\% \pm 4.57\%$, $6.86\% \pm 1.06\%$, respectively. There was a significant difference when the culture density was 2 and 4 g/L ($P < 0.05$), and the removal rate was

the best when the culture density of *G. lichevooides* was 4 g/L, which was significantly higher than that of the blank control group ($P < 0.01$).

3.1.3 Removal effect of *G. lichevooides* with different density on TN. The removal rate of TN in *G. lichevooides* with the culture density of 0.5, 2.0, 4.0 g/L and blank control group was $53.57\% \pm 8.98\%$, $66.68\% \pm 4.29\%$, $70.17\% \pm 6.1\%$ and $-22.57\% \pm 7.8\%$, respectively. One-way ANOVA showed that the removal rate of TN by algae with different density was significantly different. When the culture density of *G. lichevooides* was 4 g/L, the removal rate was significantly higher than that of the blank control group and 0.5 g/L density group ($P < 0.05$).

3.1.4 Removal effect of algae with different density on $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$. The removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ in *G. lichevooides* with the culture density of 0.5, 2, 4 g/L and blank control group was $88.96 \pm 8.89\%$, $92.01\% \pm 0.38\%$, $93.45\% \pm 4.69\%$ and $-27.79\% \pm 6.15\%$, respectively. One-way ANOVA analysis showed that there was a significant difference in $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ removal rate among different culture densities of *G. lichevooides*, there was no significant difference when the algae culture density was 2 and 4 g/L ($P > 0.05$), but there was a significant difference between other groups ($P < 0.01$).

From the above results, it was concluded that the nutrient salt removal effect of *G. lichevooides* was positively correlated with its mass, and the nutrient salt removal rate was the highest when the culture density was 4 g/L, but it was not significantly different from the nutrient salt removal rate when the culture density was 2 g/L. Considering that the actual culture density of algae should not be too high, so the suitable culture density was determined to be 2 g/L.

3.1.5 Biological characteristics of algae used in the experiment. The specific growth rate of algae was determined at the end of the experiment (Table 2). When the culture density of *G. lichevooides* was 0.5, 2 and 4 g/L, the specific growth rate was 5.73%, 1.654% and 0.48%, respectively. The results showed that the specific growth rate of *G. lichevooides* was significantly different among different culture densities, and the specific growth rate of the 0.5 g/L density group was significantly higher than that of the other two groups ($P < 0.01$).

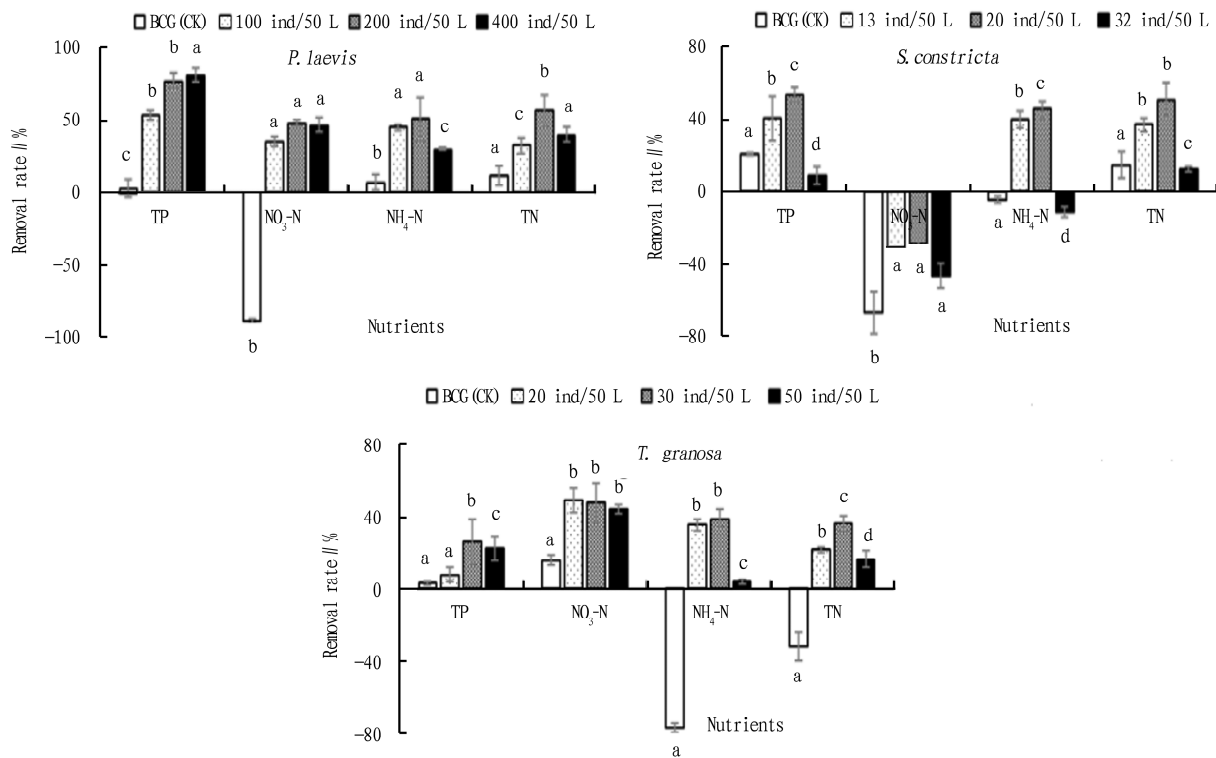
Table 2 Biological indicator of the *Gracilaria lichevooides* used in experiment

Culture density // g/L	Biomass of pre-experiment (average)	Biomass of post-experiment (average)	Specific growth rate // %
0.5	25.39 \pm 0.31	29.85 \pm 0.24	5.73 ^a
2	100.91 \pm 0.34	109.6 \pm 0.36	1.65 ^b
4	199.85 \pm 0.48	204.7 \pm 0.41	0.48 ^b

Note: If marked with the same letter, there is no significant difference ($P > 0.05$); different letters indicate significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

3.2 Results of bivalves screening and density determination

3.2.1 Removal effect of *P. laevis* with different culture density on nutrient salt. The results showed that different bivalves had different removal effects on different nutrient salts, even the same bivalves with different culture density had different removal effects on the same nutrient salts, but the effects were higher than those of the blank control group (Fig. 2).



Note: If marked with the same letter, there is no significant difference ($P > 0.05$); different letters indicate significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 2 Nutrient salt removal rate of three bivalves with different density

The TP removal rate of blank control group and *P. laevis* with culture density of 100, 200 and 400 ind/50 L was $2.83\% \pm 6.28\%$, $53.59\% \pm 3.51\%$, $77.62\% \pm 5.53\%$ and $81.85\% \pm 4.65\%$, respectively. The TP removal rate of *P. laevis* with culture density of 400 ind/50 L was significantly higher than that of the other three groups ($P < 0.01$). There was a significant difference between the blank control group and the other three groups ($P < 0.05$). The removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ in different density groups of *P. laevis* was $-89.60\% \pm 1.66\%$, $35.52\% \pm 3.58\%$, $48.31\% \pm 2.15\%$ and $47.10\% \pm 5.01\%$, respectively, and the removal rate in the three culture density groups was significantly higher than that in the blank control group ($P < 0.05$). In the removal effect of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$, there was no significant difference between 100 ind/50 L and 200 ind/50 L density groups. The removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ in blank control group and other three density groups was $7.33 \pm 5.39\%$, $45.30\% \pm 1.98\%$, $50.98\% \pm 15.62\%$ and $30.08\% \pm 0.92\%$, respectively. In the removal effect of TN, there was a very significant difference among the four groups ($P < 0.01$), and the removal rate of TN was $12.00\% \pm 6.63\%$, $32.57\% \pm 5.33\%$, $57.49\% \pm 10.78\%$ and $40.40\% \pm 5.26\%$, respectively. It can be concluded that the TP removal efficiency of *P. laevis* was the best when the culture density was 400 ind/50 L, but it was not significantly different from that of the 200 ind/50 L density group. In addition, when the culture density of *P. laevis* was 200 ind/50 L, the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$, $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ and TN was the highest. Therefore, the best culture density of *P. laevis* was 200 ind/50 L, and the purification effect of wastewater was the strongest.

3.2.2 Removal effect of *S. constricta* with different culture den-

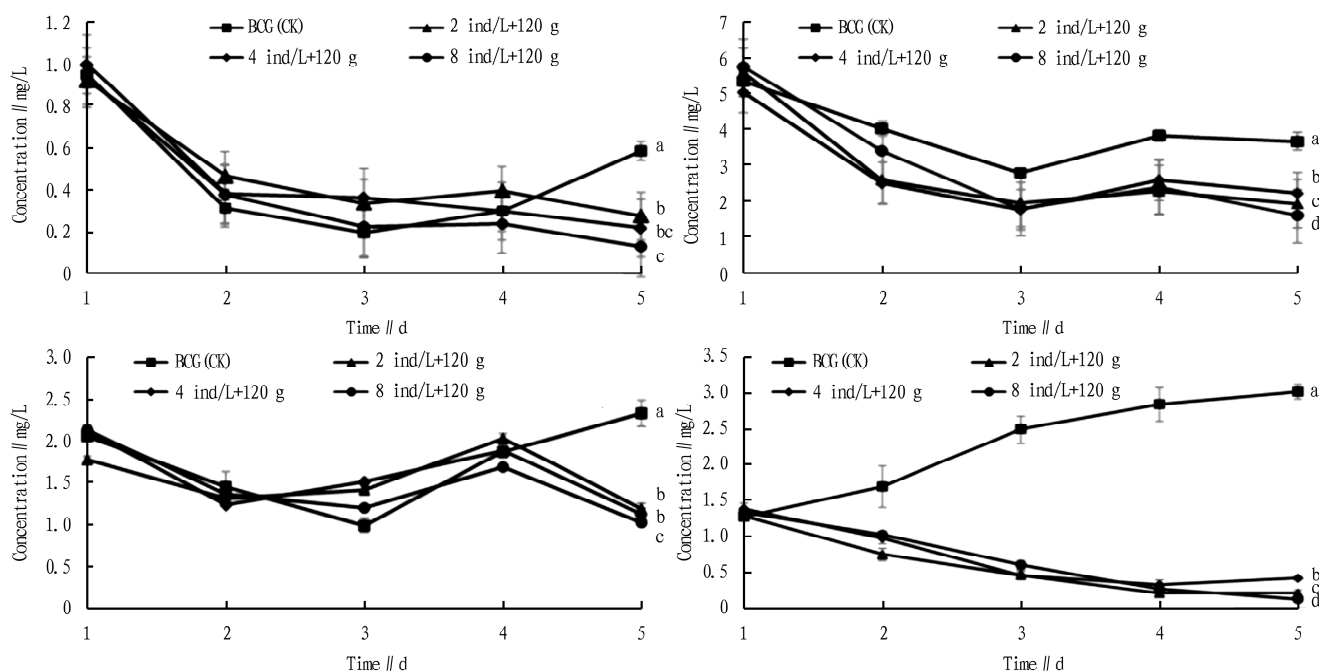
sity on nutrient salt. The removal rate of TP in the blank control group and *S. constricta* with the culture density of 13, 20 and 32 ind/50 L was $20.91 \pm 0.52\%$, $40.70\% \pm 12.07\%$, $53.69\% \pm 3.96\%$ and $9.32\% \pm 4.55\%$, respectively, and there were significant differences among the four groups ($P < 0.01$) (Fig. 2). The removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ in four kinds of culture density groups was all negative: $-66.67\% \pm 11.51\%$, $-30.41\% \pm 1.49\%$, $-28.45\% \pm 1.43\%$, and $-45.87\% \pm 6.64\%$, respectively. Although it showed a certain degree of growth, it increased the fastest in the blank group, and it increased the slowest in the 20 ind/50 L density group, and the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ in 20 and 13 ind/50 L density groups was significantly lower than in the blank control group ($P < 0.01$). The removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ in different culture density groups was $-4.27\% \pm 1.93\%$, $39.94\% \pm 4.79\%$, $45.56\% \pm 4.93\%$ and $-11.24\% \pm 2.50\%$, respectively; the removal rate of TN was $14.88 \pm 7.07\%$, $36.99 \pm 3.50\%$, $50.96\% \pm 9.83\%$ and $12.86\% \pm 1.37\%$, respectively. 13 and 20 ind/50 L groups were significantly different from blank control group and 32 ind/50 L group ($P < 0.05$). When the culture density of *S. constricta* was 32 ind/50 L, the nutrient salt removal effect was the worst, which may be due to the fact that the ammonia excretion rate was higher than the removal rate. In the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$, the 20 ind/50 L density group did not reduce its content, but increased the slowest among the four density groups, and the removal effect of the other three nutrient salts was the best. Therefore, the nutrient salt removal effect of *S. constricta* was the best when the culture density was 20 ind/50 L.

3.2.3 Removal effect of *T. granosa* with different culture den-

ty on nutrient salt. The removal rate of TP in *T. granosa* with the culture density of 20, 30 and 50 ind/50 L and the blank control group was $7.79 \pm 4.21\%$, $26.04 \pm 12.65\%$, $22.16\% \pm 6.87\%$ and $2.96\% \pm 1.15\%$, respectively. The results showed that there was no significant difference between the blank control group and the 20 ind/50 L density group ($P > 0.05$). The removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ in *T. granosa* with different culture density was $15.71 \pm 2.70\%$, $49.09\% \pm 6.75\%$, $47.49\% \pm 10.72\%$ and $44.10\% \pm 2.24\%$, respectively. There was a significant difference between blank control group and other density groups ($P < 0.05$). The removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ was $-77.35\% \pm 2.47\%$, $35.28\% \pm 3.16\%$, $38.85\% \pm 5.19\%$ and $3.61\% \pm 1.21\%$, respectively, but there was no significant difference between 20 and 30 ind/50 L density groups ($P > 0.05$). There was a significant difference in the removal rate of TN among the four groups, which was $-32.08\% \pm 7.90\%$, $21.38\% \pm 1.51\%$, $36.10\% \pm 4.03\%$ and $16.21\% \pm 4.43\%$, respectively. The $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ removal rate of 30 ind/50 L density group was significantly higher than that of other culture density groups except 20 ind/50 L density group. Therefore, the nutrient salt removal effect was the best when the culture density of *T. granosa* was 30 ind/50 L.

3.3 Results of integrated culture of bivalves and algae As for the nutrient salt removal effect of integrated culture of bivalves and algae, the blank control group and the other three culture density groups all had a certain removal effect on TP, the removal rate

of TP in the blank control group was 38.22%, and the removal rate of TP in 2, 4 and 8 ind/L + 120 g was 70.16%, 78.45% and 86.18%, respectively (Fig. 3). The results showed that there was a significant difference between the blank control group and the three culture density groups ($P < 0.01$), and the removal rate in the 8 ind/L + 120 g culture group was significantly higher than in the 2 ind/L + 120 g culture group ($P < 0.05$). The removal rate of TN in the blank control group and 2, 4 and 8 ind/L + 120 g groups was 31.34%, 65.60%, 55.87% and 72.66%, respectively. The difference among the four groups was significant ($P < 0.01$), and the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ was -13.34% , 33.01%, 47.26% and 51.85%, respectively. There was no significant difference between 2 ind/L + 120 g culture group and 4 ind/L + 120 g culture group ($P > 0.05$). The removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ in the blank control group was -137.04% . The removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ in the three culture density groups was 83.45%, 69.23% and 90.67%, respectively, and the difference among the four groups was significant ($P < 0.05$). The results showed that the best combination was 8 ind/L *P. laevis* and 120 g *G. licheoides*, and the removal rate of nutrient salts was the highest. With the increase of culture density of *P. laevis*, the specific growth rate of *G. licheoides* showed an increasing trend. In the three density groups of 2, 4 and 8 ind/L + 120 g, the specific growth rate of *G. licheoides* was 2.69%, 2.77% and 3.20%, respectively.



Note: If marked with the same letter, there is no significant difference ($P > 0.05$); different letters indicate significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

Fig. 3 Purification effect of aquaculture wastewater in *Potamocorbula laevis* and *Gracilaria licheoides*

4 Discussion

4.1 Mechanism of purification of culture wastewater by macroalgae The main factor to determine the efficiency of IMTA system is to choose the combination suitable for IMTA. The results

of this study showed that macroalgae and three kinds of bivalves had a certain purification effect on nutrient salts, but there were significant differences in the purification effects of different kinds of filter-feeding bivalves, even bivalves and algae of the same spe-

cies and different density.

As an important primary producer in the ecosystem, macroalgae absorb dissolved CO_2 and nutrient salts through chlorophyll photosynthesis, and increase the dissolved oxygen (DO), to meet their own growth. The content of N in water directly affects the survival and growth of cultured organisms, while N in culture water mainly exists in the form of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$, $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ and $\text{NO}_2\text{-N}$. In this experiment, the removal rate of $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ in *G. licheoides* was significantly higher than that in $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ and TP, and the maximum rate could reach $93.54\% \pm 4.69\%$. $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ and $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ are considered to be the most important nitrogen sources for the growth of macroalgae, but it is generally believed that $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ is easier to absorb. After $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ is depleted, algae begin to use $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ^[2,6], and some scholars think that $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ can be directly absorbed by algae to synthesize N-containing organic compounds such as amino acids by ammonia transfer^[7-8]. Among the four nutrient salts, the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ is relatively low, which may be related to the fact that algae do not produce active nitrate reductase and can not directly absorb nitrate in water^[9-10].

In addition, the concentration of N and P in water, the ratio of N to P and the concentration of phosphate in *G. parvispora* also affect the absorption of P in water^[11]. *G. licheoides* increased during the experiment, but there was no significant difference in specific growth rate between 2 and 4 g/L ($P > 0.05$). Therefore, in terms of purification capacity and specific growth rate, the best culture density of *G. licheoides* was 2 g/L.

4.2 Treatment of wastewater from shrimp culture with filter-feeding bivalves Filter-feeding bivalves mainly filter out the plankton and organic debris in the water body, reduce the suspended particles and improve the transparency, so as to achieve the purpose of purifying water quality and achieving the growth of their own biomass. Filter-feeding bivalves are located in the middle link of the ecosystem, which regulate the cycle of nutrient salts and affect the level of nutrient salts, but they will also produce a large number of faeces and other substances in the process of self-culture and react to the water environment. Therefore, how to achieve the best effect of water purification and maximize economic benefits under the maximum culture density is the key problem to be solved in ecological integrated culture at present. The study shows that the maximum density (biomass or number)^[13] is the best culture density when the filtration rate of bivalves^[12] is greater than its own excretion rate. The results showed that in terms of the removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$, *S. constricta* < *T. granosa* < *P. laevis*; in terms of the removal rate of other three nutrient salts, *T. granosa* < *S. constricta* < *P. laevis*. In addition, *P. laevis* has the characteristics of fast growth, wide adaptability, strong tolerance and reproduction twice a year, so it is an ideal filter-feeding bivalve for purifying water.

4.3 Determination of the integrated culture ratio of bivalves and algae Optimizing the integrated culture system can purify the water quality, improve the problem of pond sediment, reduce the culture cost, and improve the survival rate and flesh quality of organisms under integrated culture. However, in a specific environment, the culture capacity is certain, and in a certain capacity, the most important thing is to maintain the best proportion of inte-

grated culture for a long time. The results showed that in integrated culture, 8 ind/L *P. laevis* + 120 g *G. licheoides* was the best combination, the wet weight ratio was 1:1, and the TN and $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$ removal rate was significantly higher than that of other groups. The removal rate of $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ and TP was significantly higher than that of blank group and 4 ind/L + 120 g density group. The results are also consistent with the related studies of other researchers. Studies by Hu Haiyan and others have shown that integrated culture with a fish-algae ratio of 1:1 is reasonable. If the algae culture density is too low, the nutrient salt content in the water body is too high to achieve the ideal effect, and if the culture density is high, the algae absorb a lot of nutrient salts, affecting the normal growth of fish^[14]. Sun Wei *et al.* found that when the culture ratio of *Gracilaria lemaneiformis* and *Meretrix meretrix* is 1:1, the dry weight and survival rate of *Meretrix meretrix* will be increased^[15]. In addition, the higher the culture density of *P. laevis*, the higher the growth rate of *G. licheoides*. Compared with the previous monoculture of *G. parvispora* with the same culture density, the specific growth rate increased significantly. Nelson and others use shrimp pond wastewater to cultivate *G. parvispora*, a macroalgae, which has good quality and fast growth, and its relative growth rates (RGRS) can reach $4.7\%/d$ ^[16]. The transparency of water body is an important factor to determine the photosynthesis of macroalgae^[17]. *P. laevis* produces biological sedimentation through filter-feeding function, having an impact on the structure and function of plankton, particulate organic matter and ecosystem in the water body^[18-20], and improves the transparency of the water body. *G. licheoides* provides sufficient oxygen to *P. laevis* through photosynthesis to promote its growth. The nutrient salts produced by the metabolism of *P. laevis* provide nutrients for *G. licheoides* to purify the water body, and the two can reduce the problem of eutrophication of aquaculture water body through ecological complementarity, so as to maximize the ecological and economic benefits. When Msuya used *G. parvispora* to treat wastewater from fish ponds, it was found that macroalgae could remove more nutrient salts than those needed for growth, and store the excess in the body^[21].

5 Conclusions

To sum up, the culture density of *G. licheoides* was positively correlated with its removal rate of nutrient salts, but negatively correlated with its own specific growth rate. If *G. licheoides* was cultured alone, the best culture density was 4 g/L, and the best culture density was 2 g/L in integrated culture. *P. laevis* has stronger ability to purify water than the other two species of bivalves, and its reproductive cycle is short, and it can reach sexual maturity in 4–6 months. Therefore, *P. laevis* is an ideal candidate species, and in the integrated culture of bivalves and algae, the combination of 8 ind/L *P. laevis* and 2 g *G. licheoides* had the best wastewater treatment ability. This study provides a strong theoretical basis for integrated culture of *L. vannamei*, filter-feeding bivalves and macroalgae at multi-nutrient levels in Zhejiang Province.

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(From page 32)

ried out actively. In agricultural construction, micro-sprinkler irrigation water-saving technology is promoted.

6.3 Earnestly implementing the environmental impact assessment system for development and construction projects in sandy areas

The city has always strengthened the supervision of project approval. Projects that do not comply with environmental protection laws and policies, serious pollution, high resource consumption, and serious environmental damage will not be approved. Environmental protection law enforcement is strengthened. Regarding to newly launched construction projects, the "three simultaneous" system of project construction, environmental impact assessment and environmental protection is implemented earnestly. In the work, the policy of paying equal attention to resource development and environmental protection is adhered to. We will conscientiously implement various environmental protection tasks such as comprehensive improvement of environmental protection and soil and water conservation.

6.4 Strengthening the construction of forestry ecological projects related to sandy areas

In addition to the special sand prevention and control work, the city's forestry and grass departments have also implemented the protection and restoration project

for the two national wetland parks, the "two-river four-stream" watershed afforestation project, Nyingchi – Lhasa Highway construction project, Bayi – Mainling Airport Highway green landscape corridor construction project and other key ecological construction projects related to the control of sandy areas, effectively promoting the sand prevention and control work in Nyingchi.

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